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Remarks

In the specification, paragraph [0005] has been amended to correct a minor typographical error noted by the Examiner.

The claims have been amended to clarify and more fully claim the subject matter of the present invention. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 4-6, 8, 14, 17-19, and new claims 21 to 31 can be found in the description at paragraphs 38-44, 52-53 and Figures 7 to 8H, and elsewhere in the application as originally filed.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-8, 12-20 under 35 USC §112. The preamble of the claims has been amended to address the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-8, 11-20 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,483,047 to Ramachandran et al. The applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the amended claims is novel and non-obvious over Ramachandran et al. for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites an automated kiosk comprising a cabinet, a face frame releasably securable to the cabinet, and a plurality of cross members. At least one of the cross members is secured to the face frame. One or more cross members are releasably securable in a plurality of configurations in relation to the face frame. A plurality of hardware components are releasably secured to the cross members.

Independent claim 11 as amended recites an automated kiosk comprising cabinet, a face frame, and a plurality of hardware components secured to the face frame.

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Independent claims 19 and 20 as amended recite a method of modifying and assembling a kiosk respectively.

Ramachandran et al. discloses an automated teller machine comprising a cabinet, a face frame (door), a plurality of cross members, and a plurality of hardware components. The automated teller machine (ATM) of Ramachandran et al. arguably includes "cross member" type elements as shown for example in FIG. 10. However, neither the cross members nor the face frame are used for mounting the hardware components of the ATM.

The hardware components of Ramachandran et al. are mounted to an internal subassembly of the ATM not the face frame (front fascia panel). The "cross members" of Ramachandran et al. appear to be used, at least in part, for mounting housings for user interfaces of the ATM e.g. cash doors, or defining openings for hardware components mounted to the internal subassembly. For example, the ATM of FIG. 10 has a front fascia panel 18 which includes a keyboard 20, a screen opening 62, a customer card accepting slot 24, a receipt delivery opening 26, a cash delivery door 28, and a deposit accepting opening 30. As shown in FIG. 2, the hardware components of the ATM are mounted on trays 46 in an internal assembly 40 in drawer-like fashion such that the trays and the components located thereon may be moved forward through a front opening 60. This configuration enables a technician to stand to the side of an extended tray 46 to service components located thereon.

In contrast, the kiosk of the present invention, as recited in claims 1-8, 14, 17-18, 21-22, 24, 27-28, has cross members that are (re)configurable, allowing one or more cross members to be positioned/repositioned to accommodate the desired hardware components when the kiosk is manufactured or installed, or at a later time when it may be desirable to change the hardware components included in the kiosk. As noted at paragraphs 11 and 12 of description, the kiosk allows the use of a wide selection of

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different hardware components within one kiosk housing. This design allows the kiosk designer to select the desired components closer to the time that the kiosk is assembled. The kiosk also allows one to readily change hardware components after the kiosk is in the field, without the need for cutting, grinding or re-machining. The cross members of Ramachandran et al. are not releasably secured to the face frame and are not configurable. Furthermore, there is no motivation to adapt the cross members of Ramachandran et al. to be releasably secured to the face frame or to be (re)configurable because the hardware components of the ATM are mounted to the internal assembly. Thus, releasably secured cross members would serve no purpose in the ATM of Ramachandran et al.

The kiosk of the claimed invention includes a face frame and hardware components secured to the face frame. The hardware components may be secured to the face frame directly or indirectly (for example by mounting the hardware components to cross members or faceplates which are in turn mounted to the face frame). An example of direct mounting is shown in FIG. 8E and described at paragraph 38 of the present application. Faceplates 22 are mounted to a face frame 14. Hardware components 24 are then mounted to the faceplates 22. FIG. 8F shows an example of indirect mounting to the face frame 14. The faceplates 22 are mounted to cross members 20. The cross members 20 are then mounted to the face frame 14. Hardware components 24 are then mounted to the cross members 20 and indirectly to the faceplates 22.

An advantage of securing the hardware components to face frame is improved accessibility to the hardware components, for example for servicing of the hardware components or modifying the hardware components secured to kiosk. For example, a technician may access the hardware components from the rear of the face frame when the cabinet is opened or by removing the faceplates of the kiosk.

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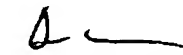
Furthermore, claims 21-22 recite cross members defining a plurality of longitudinally spaced apart holes for receiving a fastener for securing the cross members, claims 6, 17, 19, 23-27 recite a kiosk comprising a plurality of faceplates, claims 26-27 recite a kiosk comprising a plurality of gaskets for providing a seal, and claim 28 recites a kiosk having some cross members releasably secured along a lateral axis of the face frame, and some cross members releasably secured along a longitudinal axis of the face frame, the laterally and longitudinally secured cross members forming a configurable grid for releasably securing the hardware components. These features are not disclosed in Ramachandran et al.

In conclusion, Ramachandran et al. discloses an ATM having hardware components mounted to trays in the internal subassembly of the ATM. The claimed invention of amended claims 1-8, 11-28 concerns a kiosk having hardware components secured to a face frame (directly or indirectly) of the kiosk allowing improved access to hardware components and the modification of hardware components secured within the kiosk after the kiosk has been placed in the field. In view of the foregoing discussion, the applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the claimed invention (as amended) is novel and non-obvious over Ramachandran et al.

Favourable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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